

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please take your seats.

(Interruptions)

11.23 hrs.

At this stage, Shri M.P. Veerendra Kumar and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please go back to your seats.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The whole country is watching you.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Kindly discontinue the telecast of proceedings on T.V.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : It is enough, please go to your seats.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Samik Lahiri, please mind your language. I will take action if you behave like this. Please come to your senses.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I appeal to all of you to go back to your seats. Please sit down. Please go to your seats.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please go to your seats.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : It is zero hour now. I will allow everyone. Please go to your seats.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The House stands adjourned till 2.00 p.m. today.

* Not Recorded.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

Production of Tea

*221. SHRI DEVI BUX SINGH :

DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of tea produced in the country during each of the last three years in comparison to the previous years;

(b) whether the production of tea during the current year is likely to be higher;

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith its estimated production; and

(d) if not, the steps taken by the Government to increase the production of tea in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. B.B. RAMAIAH) : (a) to (d). Data regarding production of tea in the country during the past four years and first six months of the current year with corresponding figures of the previous year is as follows :-

Year	Production (Mn. kgs)
1992-93	736.00
1993-94	768.05
1994-95*	743.33
1995-96*	762.35
1996-97*	505.93
(April-Sept.)	
1995-96*	482.31
(April-Sept.)	

* Estimated and subject to revision.

Production during the current year so far is significantly higher as compared to the corresponding period of the previous year. Given the trends, likely production of tea during 1996-97 is estimated at 772 million kgs.

In order to increase production, Tea Board has been operating various developmental schemes to encourage activities such as replantation, extension planting, setting up of new plantations, assistance to small growers in extension activities and research & development.

[English]

Meeting of W.T.O. at Singapore

*222. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India is participating in the World Trade